

woods near Bromsgrove on 24th July 1971, which was the first record of this species for the Midland Plateau (cf. *Proc. Birmingham nat. Hist. Soc.*, **22** (1973): 191-198).

Since the 1972 records we made a concerted effort to look for *P fuliginaria* in July 1973, and managed to record a further four specimens, two by Andrew Adams again, and two by Dr A. N. B. Simpson of Worcester. The latter were only a few miles from the Lower Teme Valley in the same geographical area—one at Alfrick and one at Monk Wood.

The particularly interesting point about Mr Adam's and Dr Simpson's observations is that the moths were taken only a few miles from Broadwas where the late Dr R. H. Clarke had three specimens over the period 1955-61, before he moved to Oxfordshire. It therefore seems possible that this species may be breeding in the lower valley of the River Teme.

The only other known records for Worcestershire are of a single larva at Arley in the Severn Valley in 1949, and the old reference by Barrett to a specimen at Croome near Pershore before 1860. — J. E. GREEN, 25 Knoll Lane, Poolbrook, Malvern, Worcs.

CALLICERA SPINOLAE RONDANI (DIPTERA: SYRPHIDAE) IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—On 8th September 1973 I took a male *Callicera spinolae* at Lode in Cambridgeshire. This is the first time a male of this species has been found in Britain, and was near to where I caught my previous specimen, a female, on 19th September 1971. This female C. O. Hammond mentioned in his article on *C. spinolae* (in *Ent. Rec.*, **85**: 22). Further searching of the locality revealed another female on 22nd September 1973, which I was unable to capture. All three individuals were found feeding on ivy blossom.

In Britain, *C. spinolae* appears to be confined to East Anglia where seven specimens have now been recorded. Climatic conditions may restrict it to this area, although further searching of ivy blossom during September in wooded areas may reveal a much wider distribution. — I. PERRY, 27 Mill Road, Lode, Cambs. 12.i.1974

DAY-FLYING LEPIDOPTERA ATTRACTED TO LIGHT.—To add to Mr B. K. West's account (*Ent. Rec.*, **85**: 267) of a numerous attendance of the usually day-flying *Anarta myrtilli* (L.) at light on Studland Heath on 15th August 1973, I have a number of records of single specimens of it in light traps in west Surrey. Some of these traps, like my own here at Bramley, were up to two miles away from any likely breeding grounds; but on 25th and 27th August 1955 I had it in numbers at m.v. light in the field on a heath near Bisley, both soon after dusk and later in the night. On other nights, however, both there and in similar localities where the species is common by day, none appeared. It seems that nocturnal flight of *A. myrtilli* requires some special conditions. What these are is not clear: I can only say that it does not appear to be restricted to warm or cloudy nights, or to nights when the attendance of other species

is very large. In this it resembles the occasionally nocturnal *Orgyia antiqua* (L.): I have a few trap records of this, and I had one at light in the field at Durfold Wood, Surrey, on a very unfavourable night in October 1973.

One would like to know more about these occasional nocturnal flights of usually diurnal British species. Has anyone had *A. cordigera* (Thunb.), *A. melanopa* (Thunb.) or *Ligdia carbonaria* (Clerck) at light in the Scottish Highlands? Or *Pseudopanthera macularia* (L.) or the *Archearis* species (Orange Underwings) in England? Is there perhaps some sexual distinction, as with *Lasiocampa quercus* (L.), *Macrothylacia rubi* (L.), *Saturnia pavonia* (L.), females of which fly at night but the males only by day? Has nocturnal flight anything to do with migration, as is certainly the case with the occasional appearance of *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) at light.—R. F. Bretherton, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 OLE. 12.i.1974.

HYLES GALLII ROTT. IN LINCOLNSHIRE.—A male *Hyles gallii* Rott. was seen in Boston in daylight "fighting" (according to my informant) "a House Sparrow". It was subsequently captured. On the night of the 15th/16th August a female was taken in the static light trap at the Gibraltar Point Field Station. She was in very worn condition and on dissection I found eight imperfectly formed eggs in a grossly distended oviduct and patulous vagina. The obvious inference was that she had arrived in this country laden with eggs and had sought the first opportunity to deposit them. Indeed, when on the 6th September the first search was made, fourteen larvae were found on small shrubby plants of *Epilobium angustifolium* growing on the seaward side of the sand dunes. Seven more were found on the 8th and five more on the 9th. In all well over fifty larvae were found but a number showed a punctured wound just above the lateral line in their distal segments from which haemolymph was still flowing. These larvae were obviously dying. It was thought that these wounds were probably due to a peck by a bird, probably a Lark, abundant in the area, made in fright or surprise as a single act and not followed up as in a more deliberate attack. The distribution and the very varying size of the larvae suggested that they were the offspring of two, and more probably, three females. It has often been said that the eggs are laid commonly in pairs and, indeed, it was noticed that two larvae were frequently found near or on the same plant. No larvae were found on the very large clumps of *Epilobium* which occur at intervals along the sand dunes but this may be because such clumps are much more difficult to search effectively.

Almost all were found between 11.20 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. in warm, sunny weather, when they were feeding completely exposed or lying basking in the sun. The